




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.19 pm): Queensland is such a great place to live and work. I know it, my constituents know it and so do the tens of thousands of people who have flocked to Queensland in recent years. However, if you listened to the speakers from the LNP, you would have to wonder why they, or in fact anyone, would want to live here. One after another, they stand up here with not one good word to say about Queensland or anything that goes on here. Criticising this, whinging about that, they make Queensland sound like a dud place—oh, that is right, that is exactly what the member for Mudgeeraba calls our fantastic health workers. I know firsthand the impact that these words have constantly on our frontline workers and public servants is shocking. However, history shows that those opposite have little or no regard for these important hardworking people in our state. No-one, particularly the people of the Bayside, will ever forget the shocking sackings of the Newman era.

I am hopeful that the LNP do not really believe all of their terrible negative comments, given that they seem to be reading from the same song sheets. In fact, I am not actually sure what I will do if I hear one more 'rivers of gold', 'sugar hit', 'crisis this, crisis that'. I guess they are just repeating the lines they have been given by their spin doctors, with not an original thought amongst them. We heard not an original thought from the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply.

We are a parochial mob here in Queensland. We stick together and always look out for each other—well, perhaps I am being a little bit generous, I think, because we all know that those opposite do not get it. By and large, Queenslanders—and I know all Baysiders—look after each other, whether it be during the pandemic, the floods or the fires, because that is the Queensland way. Looking out for Queenslanders when they need a hand—that is the Queensland way and that is the Labor way. Equity and opportunity for all.

In this budget, we are delivering the biggest cost-of-living program and our state's biggest building program, all with a surplus of \$12.3 billion. This is all due to our strong economic management.

I am thrilled to talk about the many cost-of-living measures. Where to begin? There is so much to talk about—in fact, \$8.2 billion worth. Electricity, for example: there is a \$550 rebate for electricity customers, as well as eligible concession holders who may be eligible for up to \$1,072. Free kindy—fabulous! 15 hours per week for kindy kids starting in 2024. The great news is that this means an average saving of over \$4,500 for many families. This means that there will be so many more opportunities for Queenslanders to return to work, further easing household pressures.

The SwimStart program involves 30,000 vouchers valued at \$150 for eligible children under the age of five to learn to swim, which is really important in the electorate where I live because we are on the bay. This will ensure that families, all families, will be able to enjoy our beautiful Queensland lifestyle.

We are justifiably proud of how we faced the pandemic. Together, arm in arm, we got our vaccinations, we socially distanced and we followed the rules. We looked out for each other and we are renowned around the world for our response. Our \$9.8 billion is a commitment to the health of

Queenslanders because we know that in order to have a strong economy and a strong and productive state, we need healthy Queenslanders. This investment will include 200 more paramedics, new and replacement ambulances and cost-of-living allowances for nursing and midwifery students in regional and remote Queensland.

Under the Palaszczuk government, Lytton is well and truly recovering from the litany of failures under the LNP. This year's budget will see so many benefits for all. Our families will be benefitting from the free kindy and electricity concessions. There will be further investment in community safety, training with the fantastic Skilling Queenslanders for Work, saving koalas acceleration program, partnering with the Quandamooka land and sea rangers, significant investment in healthy land and waterways and, of course, the expansion of the great mobile police beat vehicles.

Queensland's Big Build sees \$89 billion invested in health, schools and transport, including over \$25 million invested in our local schools. Manly State School, Darling Point Special School which has a special place in all our hearts and Wynnum State School are all receiving significant new buildings or upgrades to provide state-of-the-art learning facilities for our kids.

The Lindum Station Precinct improvements continue with upgraded signalisation and station upgrades on target. Wynnum Tennis Club and Wynnum Golf Club will both share in close to \$300,000 to provide important upgrades to the clubs.

I commend the Treasurer for this budget. It recognises that whilst we face challenges with tough economic headwinds, high inflation and interest rates that Baysiders are experiencing with higher costs of living, our government's progressive coal royalties mean that we can take on these challenges. The Treasurer has delivered a budget that supports all Queenslanders because that is the Labor way; that is the Queensland way. I commend the bills to the House.